

III. REMARKS

The Examiner contacted Applicants' attorney, Wesley Ashton, by phone on May 20, 2010 requesting authorization to make an Examiner's Amendment to claims 1, 14, 21 and 27 in order to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants' attorney informed the Examiner that Applicants were filing an amendment on May 20, 2010 with a certified copy of an English translation of the foreign priority document as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants' attorney agreed to make the changes to claims 1, 14, 21 and 27 requested by the Examiner.

By the present paper, the specification has been amended to address a typographical error made with respect to Applicants' priority claim.

Claims 1, 14, 21 and 27 have been amended to effect punctuation changes requested by the Examiner. The present amendment to claims 1, 14, 21 and 27 was not made for a reason related to patentability, and does not further limit the scope of the claims.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.

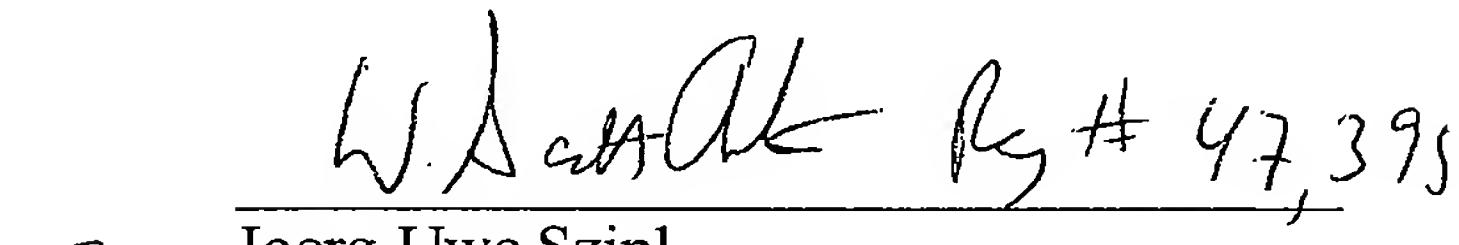
Filed herewith is certified English translation of Applicants' foreign priority document, namely, Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-059106 filed on March 3, 2004. Applicants contend that the foreign priority claim for the above-captioned application has been perfected, and that the claims of the above-captioned application are entitled to a priority date of at least March 3, 2004.

Applicants contend that claims 1-12 and 14-27 are in condition for allowance for the reasons of record, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

GRiffin & Szipl, P.C.



Joerg-Uwe Szipl
Registration No. 31,799

GRiffin & Szipl, P.C.
Suite PH-1
2300 Ninth Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone: (703) 979-5700
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429
Email: gands@szipl.com
Customer No.: 24203